

## Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 301820

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. UK: TORIES SPLIT OVER SCOTTISH DEVOLUTION BILL

THE TORY LEADERSHIP'S AMBIVALENT SIGNALS CONCERNING THE  
SCOTTISH DEVOLUTION BILL HAVE CAUSED INTERNAL DISUNITY  
AND WEAKENED THE PARTY'S EFFORTS TO OBTAIN SUPPORT IN  
SCOTLAND:

--A SHADOW-CABINET DEBATE WHICH ENDED IN A DECISION  
TO OPPOSE THE GOVERNMENT BILL ELICITED STRONG DIS-  
AGREEMENT FROM FORMER PRIME MINISTER HEATH.

--SHADOW SPOKESMAN ON SCOTLAND BUCHANAN-SMITH AND  
HIS DEPUTY HAVE RESIGNED OVER THE ISSUE.

--MRS. THATCHER, IN AN ATTEMPT TO DEFUSE THE SITUATION,  
HAS RECONFIRMED THE PARTY'S SUPPORT FOR THE CONCEPT OF  
DEVOLUTION WHILE CONTINUING TO OPPOSE THE GOVERNMENT'S

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BILL; HOWEVER, SHE HAS APPOINTED A NOTORIOUS ANTI-

DEVOLUTIONIST TO LEAD THE PARTY'S FIGHT AGAINST THE BILL.

EMBASSY LONDON COMMENTS THAT THE TORIES NOW APPEAR TO RESENT THE VOICE OF ENGLISH BACKLASH AGAINST DEVOLUTION, AND THAT MRS. THATCHER HAS BECOME MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO CRITICISM THAT SHE IS MOVING THE PARTY TO THE RIGHT AND NARROWING ITS BASE. (CONFIDENTIAL) LONDON 19966, 12/10.)

2. BELIZE: WHAT NOW?

EMBASSY GUATEMALA, IN AN ANALYSIS OF THE BELIZE DISPUTE, SUGGESTS THAT THE UK-Guatemalan TALKS WILL CONTINUE FOR SOME TIME BECAUSE NEITHER SIDE SEES A MORE ATTRACTIVE COURSE OF ACTION. HOWEVER:

--THE TALKS WILL EVENTUALLY REACH A STALEMATE BECAUSE THE UK WILL NOT AGREE TO A CESSION OF TERRITORY.

--BRITAIN WILL THEN BE UNDER PRESSURE TO GRANT BELIZE INDEPENDENCE.

--IF INDEPENDENCE IS GRANTED, GUATEMALA WILL MOST LIKELY ATTACK AND ATTEMPT TO SEIZE A PORTION OF SOUTHERN BELIZE.

THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT, SHOULD THIS SCENARIO DEVELOP, THE USG BE READY TO PROPOSE AN APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL FORUM TO MEDIATE THE DISPUTE. (SECRET) GUATEMALA 8280, 12/10.)

3. LISBON: LOCAL ELECTIONS BUOY SOARES GOVERNMENT

EMBASSY LISBON REPORTS THAT PORTUGAL'S FIRST MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS SINCE THE 1974 REVOLUTION HAVE PRODUCED A VOTE OF CONTINUED CONFIDENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT OF PRIME MINISTER SOARES. WITH 40 OF THE VOTES COUNTED, THE RESULTS WERE:

--SOCIALISTS (PS): 30  
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--SOCIAL DEMOCRATS (PSD): 27

--CENTER PARTY (CDS): 17

--COMMUNISTS AND ALLIES: 17

CONTACTED BY TELEPHONE, DCM OKUN PREDICTED THAT THE FINAL

PERCENTAGES WOULD NOT VARY SIGNIFICANTLY, EXCEPT FOR THE  
POSSIBILITY OF SLIGHTLY HIGHER FIGURES FOR THE SOCIALISTS

AND THE COMMUNISTS. HE COMMENTED THAT A LOW VOTER TURNOUT  
HAD HELPED THE COMMUNISTS. THE RELATIVE ORDER OF THE PAR-  
TIES HAS REMAINED UNCHANGED FROM THE APRIL PARLIAMENTARY  
ELECTIONS, DESPITE A SLIGHT DROP IN THE PS LEAD.

(NO BACKUP) KISSINGER

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